

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

ROKOSCH *JER*

GRANDSTAFF *CJ*

THOMPSON *AT*

CHILCOTT *gc*

DRISCOLL *KD*

Date.....July 26, 2007

Members Present.....Commissioner Jim Rokosch,  
Commissioner Carlotta Grandstaff, Commissioner Alan Thompson, Commissioner Greg  
Chilcott and Commissioner Kathleen Driscoll.

Minutes: Beth Farwell

Commissioner Chilcott attended a RC&D Council meeting.

The Board met for a Department Head meeting. Commissioner Rokosch welcomed the  
Department Heads and gave a brief overview of the agenda to be addressed.

Commissioner Rokosch requested Department Heads prepare a budget hearing summary  
for the newly elected Commissioners. He explained he would like to delineate a time  
frame during budget deliberations for each individual department.

Commissioner Rokosch stated budget requests were \$1.6 million over last year's budget.  
The County's budget funding has been increased \$300,000. Commissioner Driscoll  
suggested Department Heads try to find alternative methods of funding such as grants.  
She added that Departments who do not have much or any experience in grant writing to  
utilize the Departments that have more experience.

Commissioner Rokosch opened discussion for the parking issue. George Corn gave some  
background information on past parking issues. He stated former Commissioner Betty  
Lund had in the past, tackled the parking problem. Glenda Wiles stated the  
Commissioners Office has the parking map on file. She also stated Brian Jameson,  
Maintenance has contacted the Department Heads for their needs and that should be  
taken into consideration. Judy Griffin added her concern of mothers with small children  
walking three blocks in the winter on icy sidewalks to get to the WIC Office and Public  
Nurse. She stated they need to try to keep the spaces in front of the building open for the  
public. Sheriff Hoffman stated cars parking away from the building are targets for  
vandalism. Lea Jordan, Environmental Health suggested having employees park at the  
fairgrounds and have a shuttle service. Commissioner Rokosch suggested taking a survey

to see who would utilize that option. Regina Plettenberg, Clerk & Recorder suggested posting public parking signs at the Administrative Building as well as the Courthouse. Commissioner Rokosch stated he will meet with Brian Jameson for his findings and put together some viable options.

Glenda stated she would like to discuss emergency medical care and accidents that occur on county property. She had spoken with Fred Thomas, the County Insurance Agent. Fred relayed the following. As a citizen in the State of Montana, there is a law called the 'Good Citizen Law'. That law takes liability away from you if you assist someone who has been injured. However, in order to reduce any liability to the County, Fred indicated the employee should ask the citizen if they need an ambulance. Obviously if they are unconscious, the employee would automatically call for medical assistance. She discussed options in detail for employees.

Commissioner Rokosch stated there have been strong recommendations to look at different ways to communicate with the different departments. It was suggested to hold a Department Head meeting once a quarter. Commissioner Rokosch suggested having agenda items brought forth and then schedule a meeting based on need. Commissioner Thompson added it was addressed in the past, however it was not conducted in the manner that it should have been. He recommended having the meetings on a quarterly basis to keep the lines of communication open. Commissioner Rokosch stated the Board would like to be proactive with the Department Heads.

In other business, the Board met with the Salary Compensation Board and Skip Rosenthal. Present were Jim Tadvik, Salary Compensation Board Citizen Member, Regina Plettenberg, Clerk & Recorder, Sheriff Chris Hoffman, Judge Robin Clute, and County Attorney George Corn.

Skip gave an overview of the Salary Compensation Board, noting they determine the salaries of elected officials. Montana Code indicates the Commissioners serve on this Board. Commissioner Rokosch asked if they should have all five Commissioners serve on this Board since there is an increase from three members to five. Skip replied the statutes state "the Commissioners". George Corn concurred that is correct.

Skip stated there have been some changes this year. He presented information to the Board regarding these changes and what they detailed. Skip reviewed the presented information starting with the County Treasurers' salaries and HB 372 adding a new section 7-4-2503 (2)(e). He discussed the County Attorneys' salaries. In the past, the salaries for the County Attorneys were split 50-50 between the County and the State. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, the County will be paying entire salaries and then receive a statutory appropriation from the State. Skip gave financial details regarding the remaining salaries. He gave other county salaries for comparison. Discussion followed regarding the comparisons.

Commissioner Thompson addressed longevity. He stated the Board decides only for an elected official and it is capped at 12 years.

Commissioner Driscoll asked if it was possible to look at the salaries for the three Commissioners spreading it out over five commissioners. Commissioner Thompson replied it is stated in MCA, you may not reduce a salary of an elected official. Further discussion followed regarding reducing the salary of a county official and longevity.

Commissioner Grandstaff requested clarification of the changes in the County Attorneys' salaries. George explained in the past the State paid half of the County Attorneys' salaries. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, the State will now reimburse the County after the County pays the whole salary.

Commissioner Rokosch requested comment from Jim Tadvik. Jim stated he is in agreement with the 3.2% COLA increase with the salaries. He did question whether the county could afford it with the increase from three to five commissioners. Commissioner Driscoll stated her concerns with the ripple effect from adding two commissioners. She stated she is concerned how it will eventually affect non-elected employees. She would like to view the County salaries with a fresh set of eyes. Discussion followed regarding the possible effects.

Commissioner Rokosch called for any further comment regarding longevity and COLA. Jim recommended the Board review the information presented today and hold another meeting for a decision. Commissioner Thompson stated he is in favor of the COLA increase. He stated the Board cannot have employees moving in a backwards direction. They need the COLA increase. Sheriff Hoffman explained the City is paying more for their officers than the County. In order to maintain quality employees, the Board should increase salaries. Discussion followed regarding salary increases.

**The Board decided to table discussion until Thursday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11 a.m.**

In other business, the Board met with Corvallis Civic Club for CTEP request. Skip Rosenthal, Planner Tristan Riddell, Civic Club Members Tonia Bloom and John Horat were present. Tonia gave an update of the last CTEP project that has since been completed. She stated the next step for this project is to have the Board sign for it. This project is for Woodside Bike Path and is to be completed on the opposite side of the street. It would include a foot bridge along Willow Creek Road.

John pointed out on a map exactly where the foot bridges would be located as well as five foot concrete path. He explained a developer will contribute \$35,000 for the paths after CTEP approval. The total cost of the project will be approximately \$205,600. Discussion followed regarding matching funds.

Skip stated he is in support of this project. He explained how CTEP works and how it is used by the Board. He provided background information as to previous projects completed with the use of these funds. Commissioner Thompson stated Lone Rock has discussed using these funds. He also stated the County has funded the City Main Street project with these funds as well as several other projects. CTEP has been incredibly

useful for many county wide projects that would not have been funded otherwise. Tonia expressed the goals of the Corvallis Civic Club is to complete the walkways and bike paths for the public, especially children who will utilize them.

**Commissioner Driscoll made a motion to approve the CTEP request for the Willow Creek Bike Path and Walkway. Commissioner Grandstaff seconded the motion, all voted 'aye'.**